喰う石
SUPERNATURAL
A NEW DEVELOPMENT IS RUSHING IN!! WHAT WILL NIRASAKI, WHO APPEARED SO SUDDENLY, SAY TO ATARU...?!
WHA-...
NIRA-SAKI...?
WHY ...?
=WHY ...?
AH.
I'M COMING IN... OR...
MORE ACCURATELY, I'VE ALREADY LET MYSELF IN.

A Laughing Stone Ghost

AUTHOR: KEIICHIRO ARITA

PRESENTED BY: Café con Lenin

SCRIPT — WILLEKE4439

EDITION — WIZ, SASORI69

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SUPPORT THE MANGA INDUSTRY
BY ACQUIRING THE OFFICIAL VOLUMES
ONCE THEY BECOME AVAILABLE IN
YOUR REGION/COUNTRY

THAT...
YOU'RE SO MEAN TO ASK WHY.
I CAME TO TELL YOU THE DETAILS ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES.
YOUR LEFT HAND, ATARU-KUN.
IF YOU LEAVE IT ALONE, IT'LL BE AWFUL.
THAT'S WHY I CAME.

SFX: GLOOM

CHAPTER 4: ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE WORST?

KEIICHIROU ARITA

.....

...HUH?

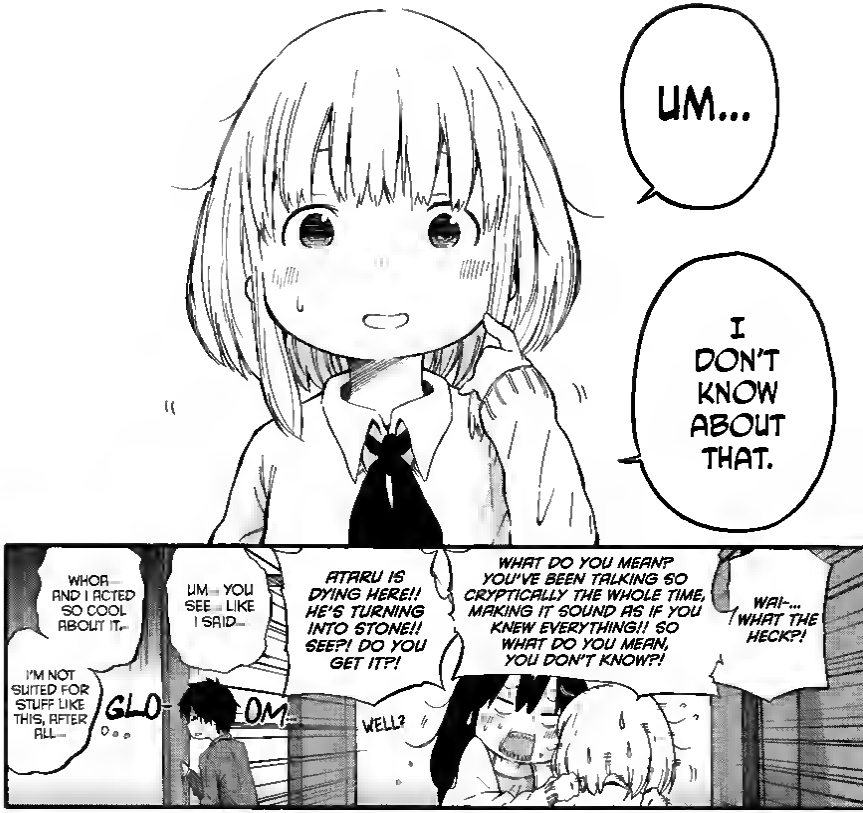
サァァァァァ

DIE...?
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING IN ORDER. ABOUT ME, AND ABOUT ATARU-KUN'S HAND.
THERE'S NO REASON TO HIDE IT ANYMORE.
DIE...? YOU SAY...
ATARU WILL...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ABOUT THE WISHING STONE...
FIRST UP.
AS YOU TWO KNOW...
IT CAN GRANT UP TO THREE OF A PERSON'S WISHES.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT. IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.

!!
BUT THAT'S THE STONE I FIRST GAVE TO TSUKIMI.
ATARU-KUN'S STONE IS DIFFERENT...
...HOW-EVER...
AH...
ATARU-KUN'S STONE...
THE STONE I GAVE HIM...
HAD THE EFFECT OF A WISHING STONE...
BUT IT WAS "SOME-THING CLOSE TO A WISHING STONE WITH INFINITE POWER".

IT'S NOT A PERFECT WISHING STONE THAT STONE...
HAD SOME KIND OF SIDE EFFECT ON ATARU-KUN
TO BE MORE PRECISE...
IT EXHIBITS AN INFINITE POWER, WHICH IS CLOSE TO THAT OF A REAL ONE... BUT...
BECAUSE IT WAS MADE OUT OF A "REAL" ONE...
THE PETRIFAC-TION OF ATARU-KUN'S HAND IS THE PRICE HE HAS TO PAY IN COMPENSATION FOR HIS WISHES.
IN OTHER WORDS...
HE'LL DIE.
IT SPREADS GRADUALLY, AND IN THE END, HIS ENTIRE BODY WILL TURN TO STONE.
THIS IS TOO SUDDEN. I DON'T REALLY GET IT...
WHAT THE HECK... IS THAT...?
.....

DON'T... WANT HIM TO ..
ATARU ...!...
ATARU ...
WHY ONLY HIM?!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ATARU?!
I DID ALL THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS MYSELF.
IT'S OKAY, SIS.
AND BESIDES
IF I HAVE TO BE PUNISHED FOR IT, THEN I CAN ACCEPT THAT.
I'D...
I'D RATHER
IF I'D KNOWN THIS
PAT
NIRA-SAKI..
AM I WRONG ..?
.....
..SO THAT MEANS THERE IS A METHOD TO STOP THE PETRIFACTION OF MY HAND...
NIRASAKI SAID SHE HAD A REASON TO BE HERE


UM...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
WHOA— AND I ACTED SO COOL ABOUT IT.
I'M NOT SUITED FOR STUFF LIKE THIS, AFTER ALL—
GLO-
UM— YOU SEE— LIKE I SAID—
OM...
ATARU IS DYING HERE!! HE'S TURNING INTO STONE!! SEEP! DO YOU GET IT?!
WELL?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU'VE BEEN TALKING SO CRYPTICALLY THE WHOLE TIME, MAKING IT SOUND AS IF YOU KNEW EVERYTHING!! SO WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T KNOW?!
WAI-... WHAT THE HECK?!

LIKE, SOMEONE WHO MIGHT KNOW HOW TO STOP YOU FROM TURNING TO STONE— KINDA—. MAYBE?

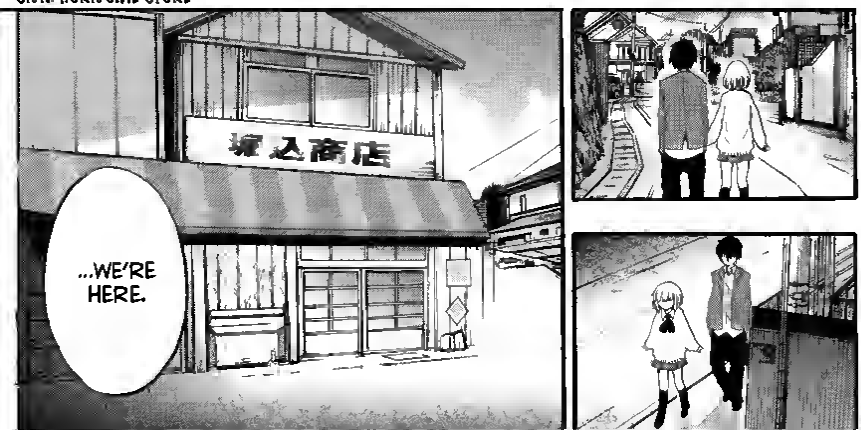
SFX: HISS HISS.
TSUKIMI'S GLARE IS SCARY
WELL, UM... YOU KNOW— HOW SHOULD I SAY...
I MIGHT KNOW SOME-BODY WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THIS—

A SPIRITUAL MEDIUM?
HMM...
SO I THINK THAT SHE WOULD ALSO KNOW ABOUT WISHING STONES
YEAH.
SHE LIVES IN THIS CITY.
AND SHE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT SHINTO AND ANIMISM,
ANYWAYS, SHE SUDDENLY APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME, AND...
"WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO EXIST IN THE PRESENT?"
...SHE SAID.
HMM... IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT...
NIRASAKI, WHY DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
I MET HER ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO.
WHEN I WAS TAKING A STROLL IN THE AIR
...YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED BY ANYTHING I SAY ANYMORE, ARE YOU?

U-UM.. NIRASAKI..
JUST... WHAT ARE...
THIS GIRL...
WAS SHE THAT KIND OF CHARACTER?
WE ENDED UP DRINKING TOGETHER UNTIL THE EARLY MORNING, YOU SEE?
YEAH.
...AND...
WHEN WE TALKED A BIT MORE, WE GOT ALONG PRETTY WELL, SO SHE INVITED ME TO HER HOUSE.
Y-
...IT'S A SECRET.

SFX: TURN

SIGN: HORIOME STORE



堀込商店
SIGN: HORIGOME STORE
堀込 商店
WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH... A CANDY STORE...?
YEAH, IT'S FINE. THIS IS MY PROBLEM.
WAS IT REALLY ALRIGHT TO LEAVE TSUKIMI AT HOME?
HURRY UP AND COME IN
THIS WAY
CAN WE REALLY TRUST THIS PERSON?
AND BESIDES...
I DON'T WANT HER TO CARRY THE BURDEN...
SFX: RATTLE RATTLE
HMM... IS THAT HOW THINGS ARE?

...WELCOME.
.....
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR MONEY HERE.
-STORE MANAGER
THIS PLACE LOOKS ANCIENT...
SMELLS OF DUST...
THIS STORE HAS BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME
HEY, HURRY UP! OR I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND
AND SHE SEEMS LIKE SHE WOULDN'T DO MUCH CLEANING
IS EVERYTHING REALLY GOING TO BE ALRIGHT...?
AAH, WAIT UP!

COULD YOU CALL HER?
SURE .. WAIT HERE A MINUTE.
KA-CHING

...SHE'S SLEEPING IN THE BACK
HELLO, AZUKI-CHAN. IS YACHIE HERE?
ALRIGHT!
I WANT THIS, AND THIS..

.....
WAIT FOR ME ...!

KA-CHING KA-CHING
COME CLOSER.
ATARU NATSUMEDA. NIRASAKI.
YEAH, I'VE HEARD LET THEM IN.
...YACHIE.. CUSTOMERS...

THANKS FOR COMING. IT'S BEEN A WHILE, NIRASAKI.
AND...
NICE TO MEET YOU, ATARU NATSUMEDA.
HANG OUT WITH ME.
I WAS BORED, SO THIS IS PERFECT.
OH WELL, FINE THEN— DID YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM ME?
RIGHT, RIGHT LISTEN..
SHE'S A TOTAL SLOB!!
WHO CARES IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE!
NO.
AZUKI, POUR THEM A DRINK.
NO.. THEY ARE JUST KIDS.—
SHE REEKS OF ALCOHOL!

WISHING STONES?

NO... IT'S OKAY, NIRASAKI.
ABOUT THAT.
BUT... WHAT'S UP WITH IT? THEY SHOULDN'T CAUSE ANY HARM...

HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THAT IN QUITE A LONG TIME.
HERE'S TEA...
THANKS.
THERE ARE FEWER AND FEWER OF THEM LATELY, AFTER ALL.

SFX: PULL

I'LL EXPLAIN IT MYSELF.

I THINK I GET THE GIST OF IT
THAT WAS AN INTERESTING STORY
REALLY? TH... THEN...
HMM...
I SEE...
BUT...
I DON'T LIKE IT.
DON'T ACT SO SPOILED...
YOU BRAT.
WHY DO YOU RELY ON OTHERS?
DO YOU KNOW? YOU DO, RIGHT?
BUT YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT. BUT LISTEN! AND PAY ATTENTION!!
THAT STONE LETS PEOPLE DO WHATEVER THEY WANT. AND AFTER YOU RELIED ON THAT, YOU'RE PLANNING TO RELY ON OTHERS NOW?
EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO NEED HELP MORE THAN YOU?

FOR ME...
AND FOR HIM.
SHUT UP, YOU.
THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.
YACHIE .. I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AS WELL.
THIS IS A BIG ISSUE TO US PEOPLE...
WHO'RE INCOMPATIBLE WITH OTHERS.
FIRST, THE FACT THAT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO CAUSED THIS PROBLEM.
SO IT IS WITHIN YOUR OWN DISCRETION HOW YOU HANDLE THIS. IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS.
SECOND IS THE FACT THAT YOUR BODY IS TURNING INTO STONE
DUE TO THIS, TO SAY THE LEAST...
ANYWAYS, GETTING BACK ON TOPIC—
NATSUMEDA THERE ARE TWO THINGS YOU NEED TO AFFIRM.

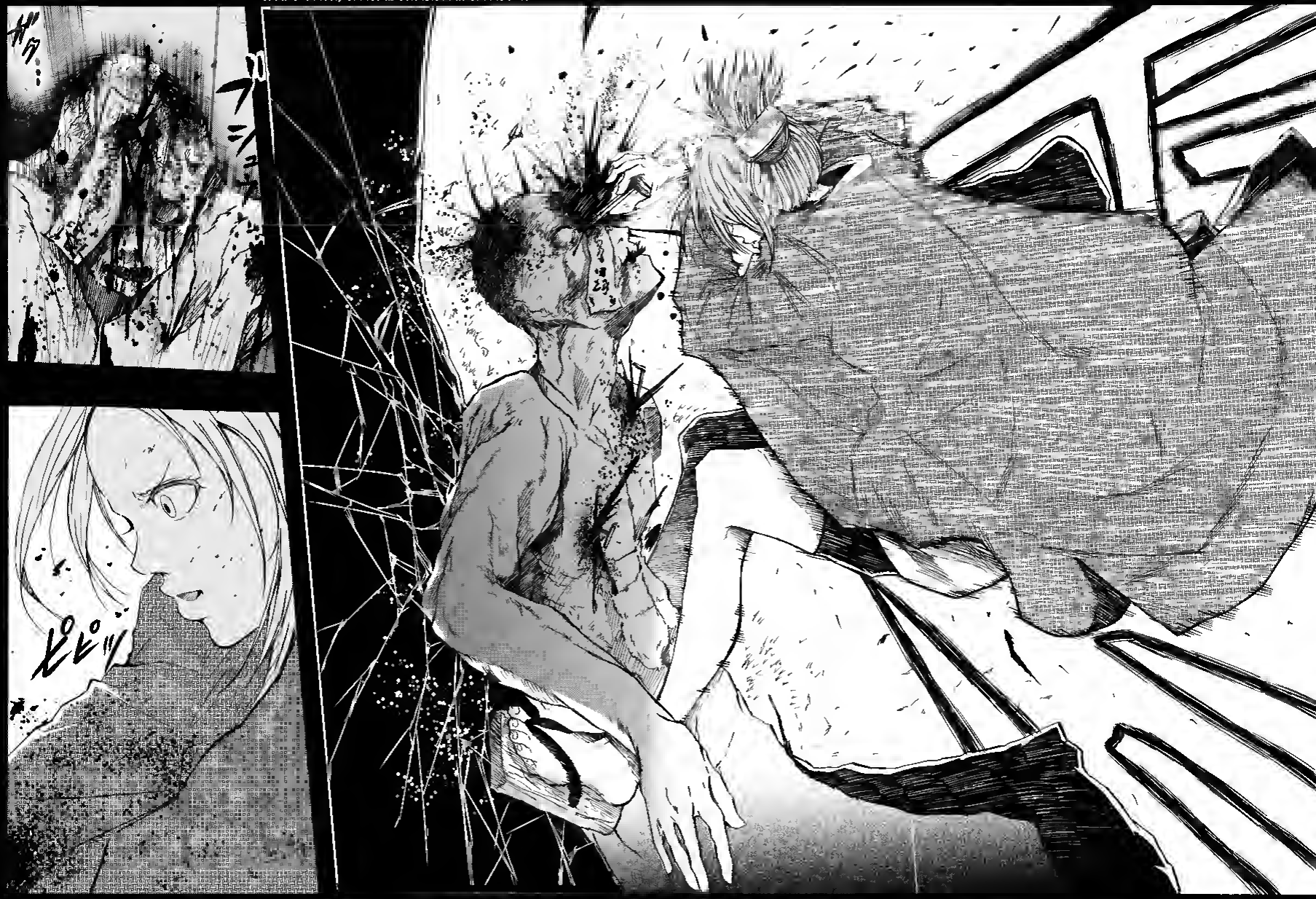
YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY HUMAN ANY-MORE.
DO YOU STILL WANT TO STOP IT, EVEN THEN? NO-
EVEN IF WE CAN STOP THE PETRIFACTION, YOU WON'T BE THE SAME YOU WERE BEFORE.
IT'S THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR TRYING TO MESS WITH NATURE
I...
I...
ARE YOU PREPARED TO LIVE LIKE A HUMAN WHILE YOU'RE REALLY NOT...?
SFX: DRIP... DRIP...

AAAAAH
BANG!!!
BANG!!!
UWAAAAAAH!!!
AAA!
GRR
GUH
TCH.
HOW BOTHER-SOME...
AH... AH...
A-A-A MONSTER !!!
IT'S DANGER-OUS. STEP BACK.

!?
H... ELP...
IT HURTS...
I'M SAD...
OH DEAR... IT'S GOT A PRETTY LOUD VOICE.
OH!
HURRY, GET BACK...
SFX: ROAR
SFX: WAAAAH
I CAN'T STOP... THESE EMOTIONS... OVERFLOWING FROM... MY BODY
I'LL PUT YOU TO SLEEP RIGHT NOW.
FLAP
SFX: SMILE... FLUTTER

YACHIE WILL BE OKAY.
IS... ISN'T THAT DANGER-OUS...?
SFX: WHIRL
SFX: STAB STAB STAB
!!

SHE'S STRONG.

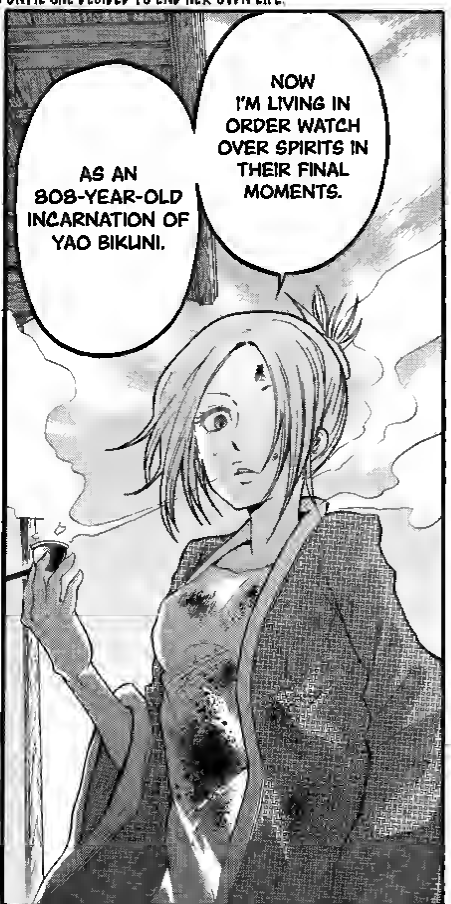

SFX: WHACK, SLASH... TREMBLE... SPLATTER
ガク…
ブシュ
ピピッ

BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN ALL THIS...
OR RATHER ...
WELL THEN...
I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE QUESTIONING YOU...

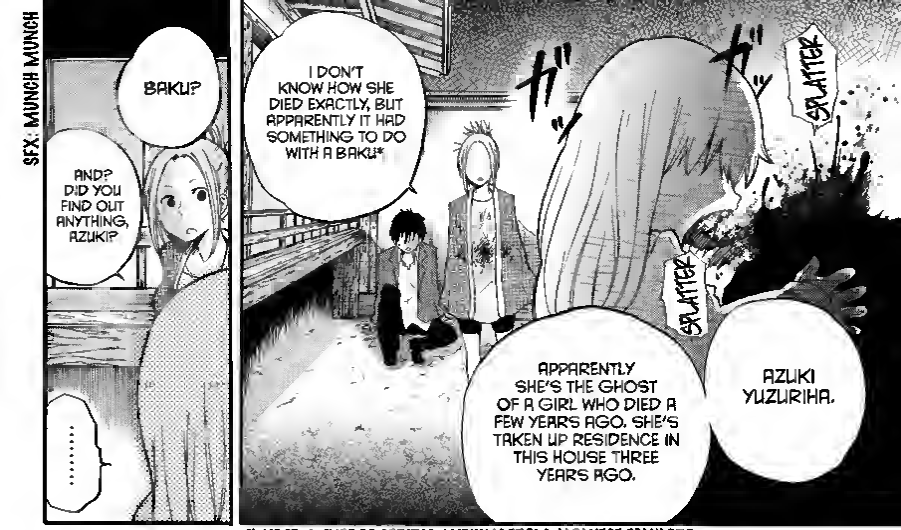
SFX: WHOOSH

WH...
WHAT... ARE YOU ...?
NOW THAT YOU'VE BECOME ABLE TO SEE THINGS LIKE THIS DUE TO THE WISHING STONE...
ARE YOU PREPARED TO LIVE LIKE A HUMAN WHILE YOU'RE REALLY NOT...?

TL NOTE: YAO BIKUNI IS A CHARACTER FROM A JAPANESE LEGEND. SHE STOPPED AGING AFTER SHE ATE A PIECE OF MERMAID FLESH, AND LIVED FOR 800 YEARS UNTIL SHE DECIDED TO END HER OWN LIFE.



!!?
SFX: AHHH, MUNCH


SFX: MUNCH MUNCH
BAKU?
AND? DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING, AZUKI?
.....
I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DIED EXACTLY, BUT APPARENTLY IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH A BAKU!*
APPARENTLY SHE'S THE GHOST OF A GIRL WHO DIED A FEW YEARS AGO. SHE'S TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN THIS HOUSE THREE YEARS AGO.
AZUKI YUZURIHA.
SPLATTER
SPLATTER

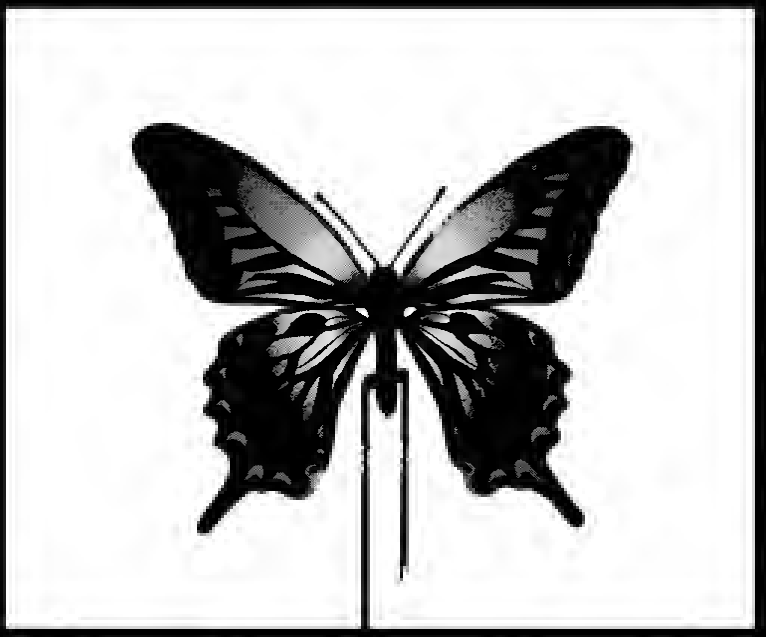
TL NOTE: A TYPE OF SPIRIT / YOUKAI FROM JAPANESE FOLKLORE THAT LOOKS LIKE A TAPIR AND IS SAID TO EAT PEOPLE'S DREAMS.

SFX: WIPE

HE HAD BEEN HAVING EXTREME HEADACHES SINCE THEN...
HALF A YEAR BEFORE HE DIED, HE STABBED HIS WIFE AND TWO-YEAR-OLD SON TO DEATH.
HE COMMITTED SUICIDE BY HANGING HIMSELF IN HIS HOUSE LAST YEAR
えれっ・・・
SFX: NIBBLE...

SFX. SHOCK
SHE'S GONNA EAT EVEN MORE?!
EVEN THOUGH SHE ATE THAT WHOLE THING?!
YAY!
SPARKLE
THERE'S PUDDING IN THE FRIDGE. YOU CAN HAVE SOME IF YOU WANT.
OKAY, GOOD JOB.
IT'S CALLED PSYCHOMETRY.
SHE CAN TRACE THE MEMORIES OF THOSE SHE EAT'S.
...WELL, AS YOU SEE, AZUKI'S GOT QUITE POWERFUL SUPERNATURAL ABILITIES.
HOWEVER.
THERE IS ONE CONDITION.
REALLY?!
THIS OLD LADY JUST DOES WHAT-EVER SHE WANTS...
I WOULDN'T MIND HELPING WITH NATSUMEDA-KUN'S CASE
SPARKLE
...ANYWAYS, I HAVE AN IDEA! I FINALLY HAVE AN IDEA!

EVEN IF SHE CAN TRACE THE MEMORIES OF OTHERS...
AZUKI HERSELF DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT HER LIFE OR DEATH.
YOU MUST FIND OUT THE REASON WHY AZUKI DIED...
AND ALLOW HER TO MOVE ON TO HEAVEN...



SHE'S EMPTY.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE APRIL ISSUE...!!